

This Is the Mountain West—No. 23

Scenic Surroundings, Hot Pots Draw Visitors to Midway

By DOROTHY O. REA
(News Staff Writer)

It sounds like a storybook town with its hot and cold running water and its pot-rock houses. It isn't. It's Midway, Utah, town of scenic splendor and thriving dairy industry.

Did you hear of ditches cementing themselves? They do in Midway. Here is a strange land where hot water bubbles out of the earth, bringing with it limestone and minerals. As this spring water travels down the irrigation ditches, it deposits a cement-like coating.

In areas where the coating is allowed to grow, it becomes "pot rock." It is from vast deposits of this rock that Midway grew. Houses, fences, churches and public buildings have been built from the pot rock.

Genial Mayor Earl Kohler showed us where we could stand with one hand in hot water, fresh from Mother Earth's water heater, and the other hand in a cold mountain spring.

Develop Swimming Resorts
Resort owners were quick to



Bishop Kohler Mayor Kohler

see the advantages of the hot springs and have developed swimming resorts to which travelers flock.

Utahns have long been familiar with Lukes' Hot Pots resort with its swimming, dining and scenic facilities. The resort is now managed by Mrs. John Luke. She can show visitors a water, made by a hot spring, which has served in its turn as dwelling, billiard hall, stable and storehouse.

Ferin, Berlin and Scott Whitaker with Del and Orma Walngren came to Midway on a visit. Like "The Man Who came to Dinner," they stayed. They purchased Schneitters' Hot Pots resort and have developed it into The Homestead, one of the showplaces of Utah. Visitors come constantly, either through Parley's Canyon and down through Heber or up through Provo Canyon.

Settled in 1859

The valley that now makes

up Wasatch County was settled in 1859. In 1866 there were two settlements in the valley. Indian depredations caused them to come together for security. They settled at a point midway between their settlements. Hence, the name of Midway.

One of the town's showplaces is the first brick home in the valley. It was built 87 years ago by John Watkins, grandfather of Utah's senior senator Arthur V. Watkins. Midway was



Mrs. Coleman Mrs. John Luke
the birthplace of the Utah statesman.

The old Watkins home was sold 54 years ago to Bishop Henry T. Coleman. His widow, Emily Springer Coleman and daughter Lethe Tatge, live in the house today. They have kept it in its original splendor, richly endowed with priceless family heirlooms.

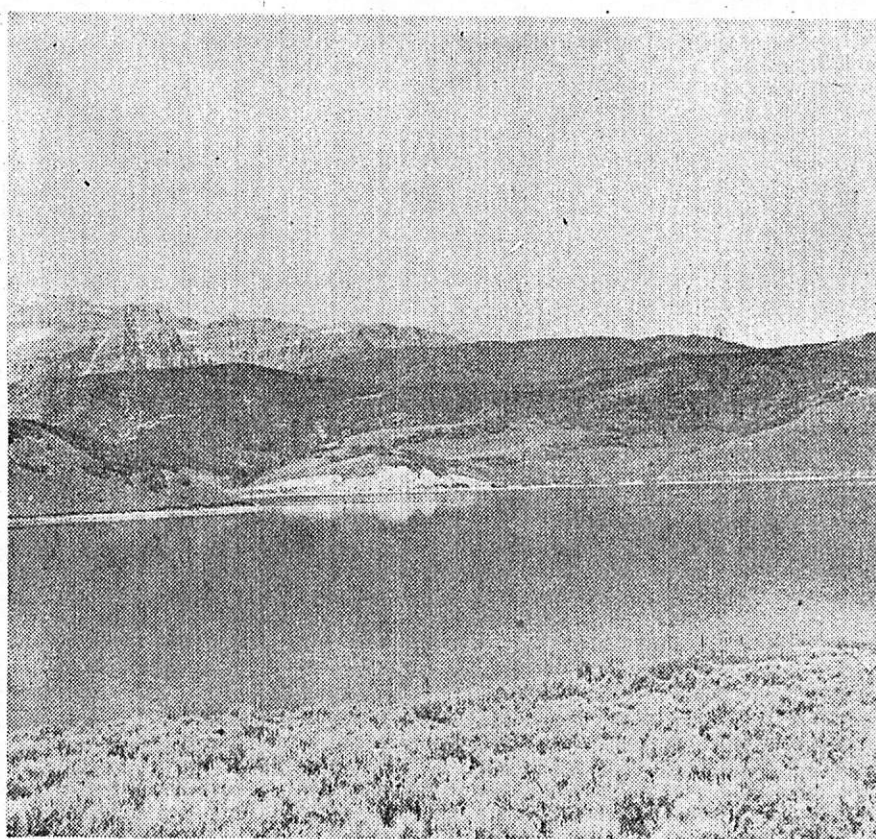
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Brings Honor to Town

Mr. LaVon Hair has brought honor to his community with his talents as a sculptor and artist. His ceramic figurines made of finest Beleck china have been shipped to many points in the United States and abroad. This power company employe has many rewarding hobbies from



SCENIC GREETINGS—The visitor is greeted in Midway, Wasatch County, by the combined beauty of water and mountains. This picture shows upper reaches of Deer Creek Reservoir with glaciers of Mt. Timpanogos in the background.

carving wood to oil painting to building his own home.

Merrill Van Wagoner, one of America's known linguists, is a native son of Midway. Among his accomplishments is an Arabic dictionary.

Center of Midway's way of life is the city hall. Built of native pot rock, it houses city hall, armory, gymnasium and the post office. The post office is "manned" by two women, Mrs. Naomi Burgener and Mrs. Thelma Carlile.

The city hall is credited with Midway's lack of juvenile delinquency.

It is open at all times to youngsters who want to use the gym for recreational activities.

Beautiful Scenery

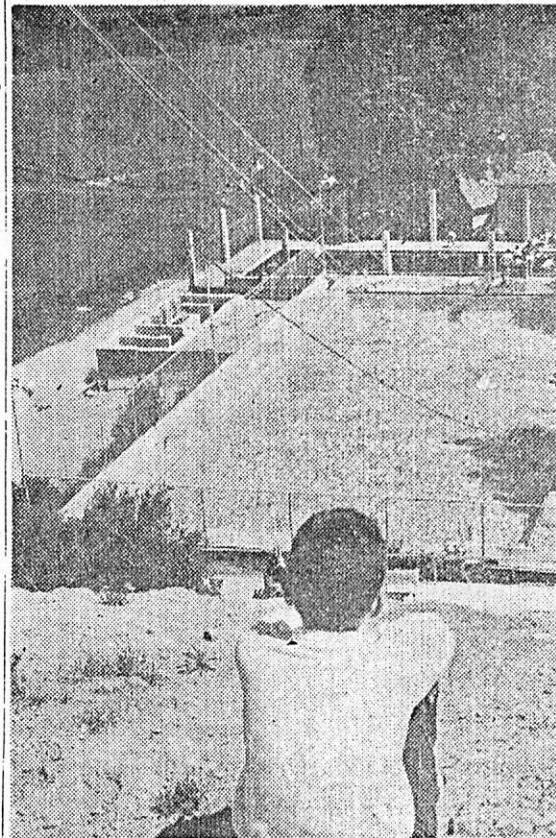
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"Our kids know how to work and how to play, so they don't give us any trouble. They ride, they swim, they play ball, they dance and they work."

Mayor Kohler runs his city business affairs with the help of councilmen Grant Remund, Irvin Bowden, Randall Schear and Reed Gertsch and Grace Sonderegger, recorder. Perhaps the busiest man in town is Leo Luke, city marshal, sexton, dog-catcher and waterworks superintendent. Mike Gale, highway trooper, spends his leisure teaching kids how to swim.

Midway is in the heart of some of Utah's most scenic country. Deer Creek Reservoir reaches to the city limits with a backdrop of the glaciers of Mt. Timpanogos. Pine Creek Canyon leads the traveler up to over 9,000 feet into forests of aspen, maple, ferns and pines.

Here graze the cattle that give Midway a double-A rating as a



SUMMER FUN—Visitors flock to the pools and swimming way to bathe in water heated by Mother Earth.

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Swiss Days, complete with folk dancing, parades, music and flower festivals is an annual late summer event in Midway.

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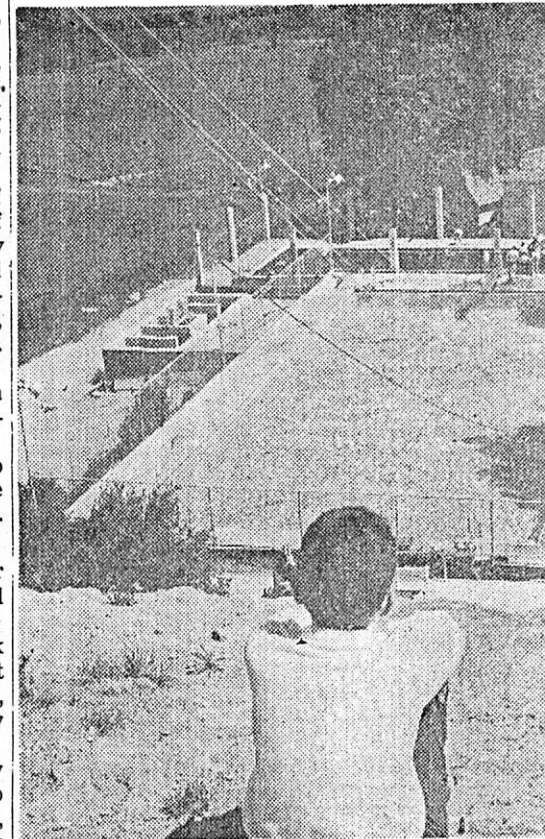
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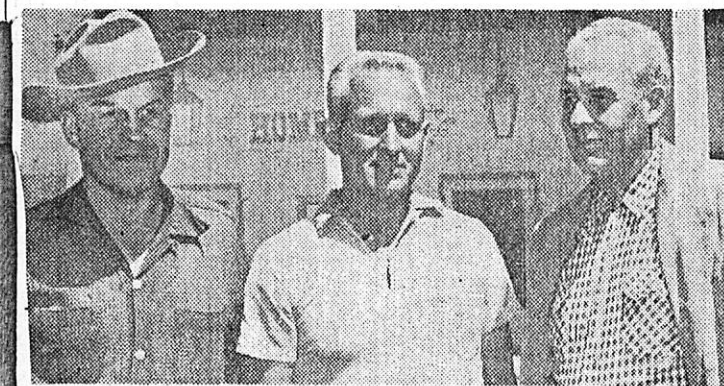


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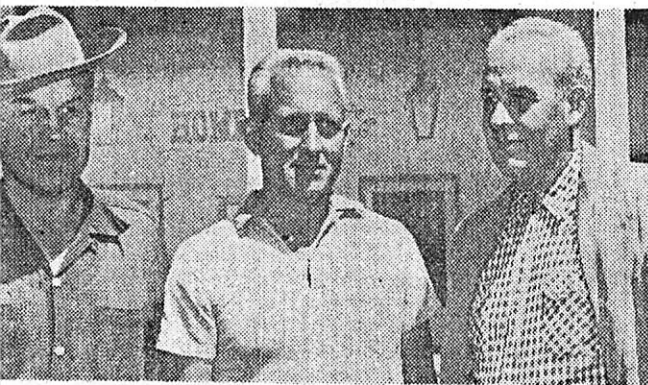


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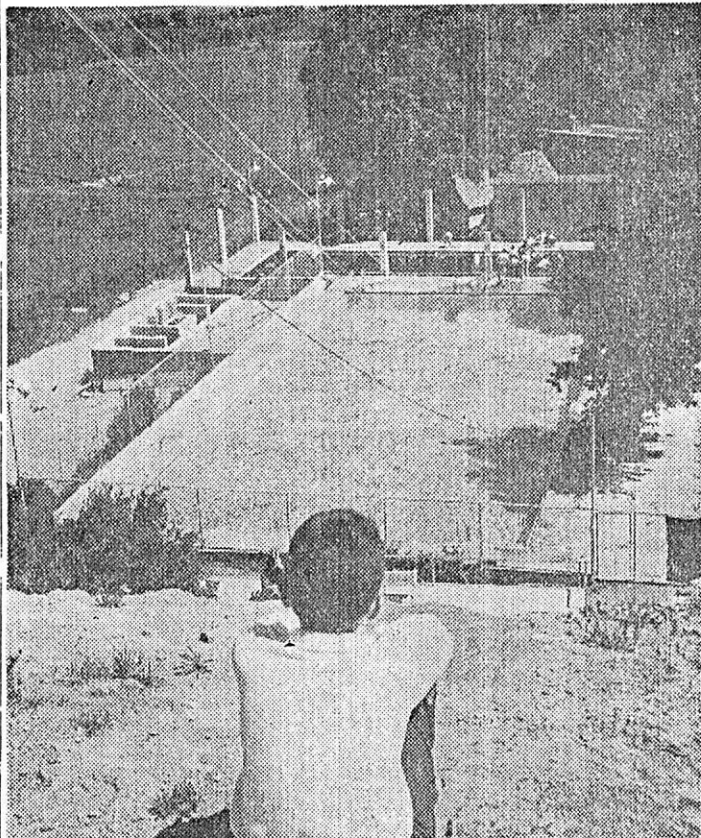
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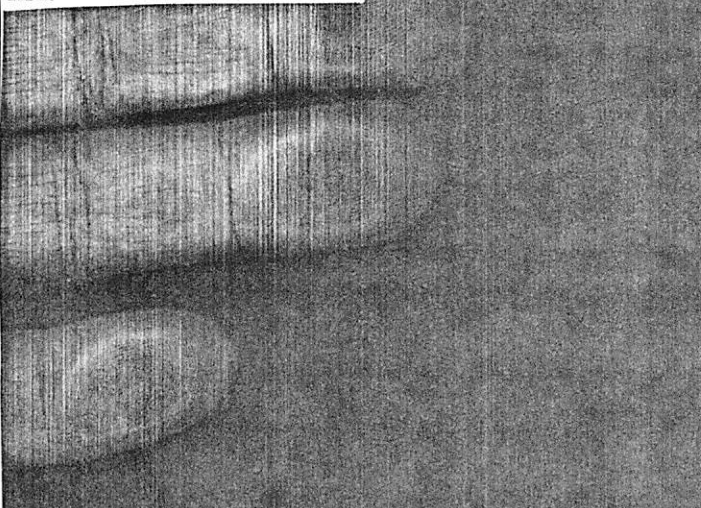


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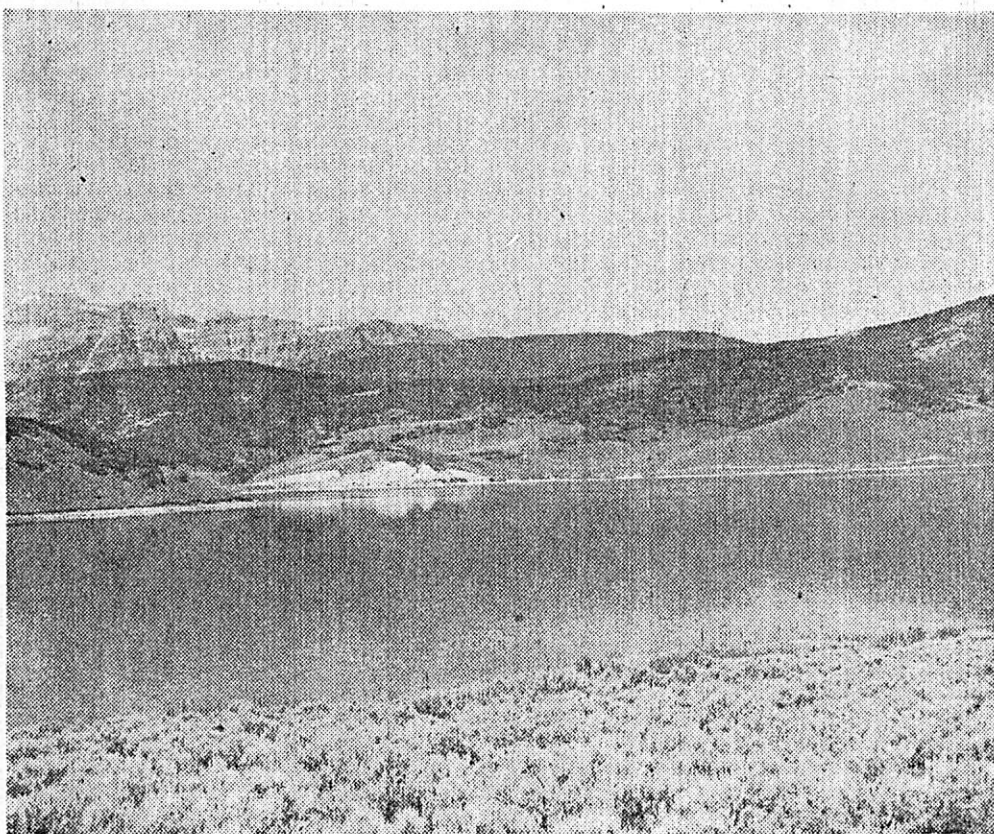


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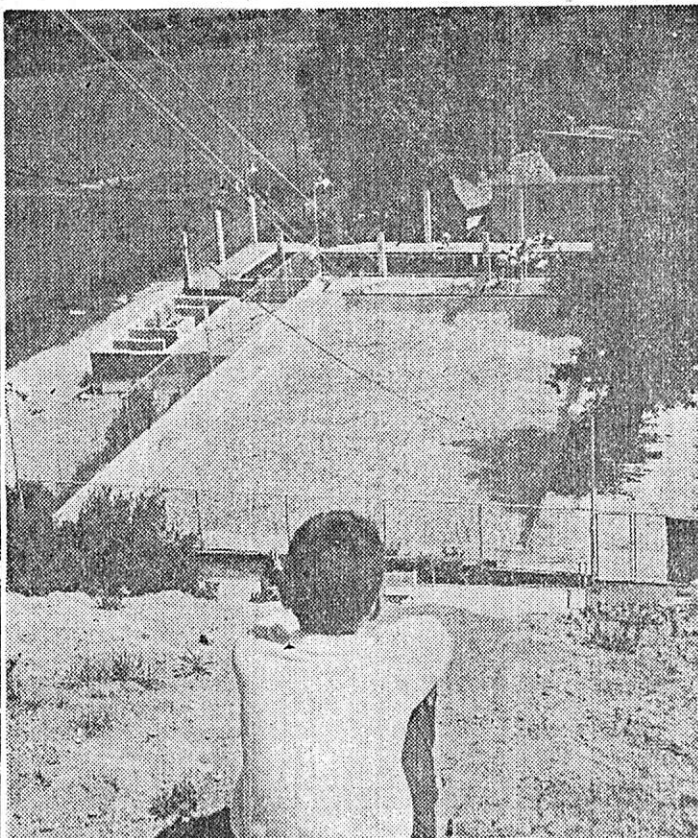
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